



3. Plaintiff Barbara Lake is an individual who maintains telephone facsimile equipment in Chicago, Illinois.

4. Defendant Pacific Union Financial, LLC, is a limited liability company with its principal office located at 1990 N. California Blvd., Suite 16, Walnut Creek, California 94596. Its registered agent and office is Incorp. Services, Inc., 901 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 201, Springfield, Illinois 62704.

5. Defendants John Does 1-10 are other natural or artificial persons that were involved in the sending of the facsimile advertisements described below. Plaintiff does not know who they are.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

6. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§1331 and 1367. *Brill v. Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.*, 427 F.3d 446 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2005).

7. This Court also has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§1332(d) (Class Action Fairness Act). Defendant is of diverse citizenship to at least one class member. On information and belief, based on the economics of junk faxing, the number of class members exceeds 100. On information and belief, based on the economics of junk faxing and the apparent target audience of the faxes, the total amount in controversy, on a classwide basis, exceeds \$5 million. (At \$1500 per fax, this is satisfied if more than 3,334 faxes were sent; since at the typical rates charged for fax advertising, this would only cost \$50 to \$100, it makes little or no sense to send fewer faxes.)

8. Personal jurisdiction exists under 735 ILCS 5/2-209, in that defendants:

a. Have committed tortious acts in Illinois by causing the transmission of unlawful communications into the state.

b. Have transacted business in Illinois.

9. Venue in this District is proper for the same reason.

### **FACTS**

10. On April 23, 2008, plaintiff received the unsolicited fax advertisement attached as Exhibit A on its facsimile machine.

11. Discovery may reveal the transmission of additional faxes as well.

12. Defendant Pacific Union Financial, LLC, is responsible for sending or causing the sending of the faxes.

13. Defendant Pacific Union Financial, LLC, as the entity whose products or services were advertised in the faxes, derived economic benefit from the sending of the faxes.

14. Defendant Pacific Union Financial, LLC, either negligently or wilfully violated the rights of plaintiff and other recipients in sending the faxes.

15. Plaintiff had no prior relationship with defendant and had not authorized the sending of fax advertisements to plaintiff.

16. On information and belief, the faxes attached hereto were sent as part of a mass broadcasting of faxes.

17. On information and belief, defendants have transmitted similar unsolicited fax advertisements to at least 40 other persons in Illinois.

18. There is no reasonable means for plaintiff or other recipients of defendants' unsolicited advertising faxes to avoid receiving illegal faxes. Fax machines must be left on and ready to receive the urgent communications authorized by their owners.

19. The fax does not contain the "opt out notice" described in 47 U.S.C. §227.

#### **COUNT I – TCPA**

20. Plaintiff incorporates ¶¶ 1-19.

21. The TCPA makes unlawful the "use of any telephone facsimile machine, computer or other device to send an unsolicited advertisement to a telephone facsimile machine ..." 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(1)(C).

22. The TCPA, 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(3), provides:

**Private right of action.**

**A person or entity may, if otherwise permitted by the laws or rules of court of a State, bring in an appropriate court of that State—**

**(A) an action based on a violation of this subsection or the regulations prescribed under this subsection to enjoin such violation,**

**(B) an action to recover for actual monetary loss from such a violation, or to receive \$500 in damages for each such violation, whichever is greater, or**

**(C) both such actions.**

**If the Court finds that the defendant willfully or knowingly violated this subsection or the regulations prescribed under this subsection, the court may, in its discretion, increase the amount of the award to an amount equal to not more than 3 times the amount available under the subparagraph (B) of this paragraph.**

23. Plaintiff and each class member suffered damages as a result of receipt of the unsolicited faxes, in the form of paper and ink or toner consumed as a result. Furthermore, plaintiff's statutory right of privacy was invaded.

24. Plaintiff and each class member is entitled to statutory damages.

25. Defendants violated the TCPA even if their actions were only negligent.

26. Defendants should be enjoined from committing similar violations in the future.

#### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

27. Pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 23(a) and (b)(3), plaintiff brings this claim on behalf of a class, consisting of (a) all persons (b) who, on or after a date four years prior to the filing of this action (28 U.S.C. §1658), or such shorter period during which faxes were sent by or on behalf of defendant Pacific Union Financial, LLC, and on or before a date 20 days following the filing of this action, (c) were sent faxes by or on behalf of defendant Pacific Union Financial, LLC, promoting its goods or services for sale (d) which do not contain the "opt out notice" described in 47 U.S.C. §227.

28. The class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impractical. Plaintiff alleges on information and belief that there are more than 40 members of the class.

29. There are questions of law and fact common to the class that predominate over any questions affecting only individual class members. The predominant common questions include:

- a. Whether defendants engaged in a pattern of sending unsolicited fax advertisements;
- b. The manner in which defendants compiled or obtained their list of fax numbers;
- c. Whether defendants thereby violated the TCPA;
- d. Whether defendants thereby engaged in unfair acts and practices, in violation of the ICFA.
- e. Whether defendants thereby converted the property of plaintiff.

30. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class. Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in handling class actions and claims involving unlawful business practices. Neither plaintiff nor plaintiff's counsel have any interests which might cause them not to vigorously pursue this action.

31. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the class members. All are based on the same factual and legal theories.

32. A class action is the superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. The interest of class members in individually controlling the prosecution of separate claims against defendants is small because it is not economically feasible to bring individual actions.

33. Several courts have certified class actions under the TCPA Sadowski v. Med1 Online, LLC, 07 C 2973, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 41766 (N.D. Ill. May 27, 2008); Green v. Service Master on Location Services Corp., 07 C 4705, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 53297 (N.D. Ill. June 22, 2009); CE Design v. Beaty Construction, Inc., 07 C 3340, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 5842 (N.D. Ill. Jan. 26, 2009); Hinman v. M & M Rental Ctr., 06 C 1156, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS

27835 (N.D. Ill. April 7, 2008); G.M. Sign, Inc. v. Group C Communs., Inc., 08 C 4521, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 17843 (N.D. Ill. Feb. 25, 2010); Targin Sign Systems, Inc. v. Preferred Chiropractic Center, Ltd., 679 F.Supp.2d 894 (N.D. Ill. 2010); Holtzman v. Turza, 08 C 2014, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 95620 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 14, 2009); G.M. Sign, Inc. v. Finish Thompson, Inc., 07 C 5953, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 73869 (N.D. Ill. Aug. 20, 2009); CE Design v. Cy's Crabhouse North, Inc., 259 F.R.D. 135 (N.D. Ill. 2009).

34. Management of this class action is likely to present significantly fewer difficulties that those presented in many class actions, e.g. for securities fraud.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff requests that the Court enter judgment in favor of plaintiff and the class and against defendants for:

- a. Actual damages;
- b. Statutory damages;
- c. An injunction against the further transmission of unsolicited fax advertising;
- d. Costs of suit;
- e. Such other or further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

#### **COUNT II – CONVERSION**

35. Plaintiff incorporates ¶¶ 1-19.

36. By sending plaintiff and the class members unsolicited faxes, defendants converted to their own use ink or toner and paper belonging to plaintiff and the class members.

37. Immediately prior to the sending of the unsolicited faxes, plaintiff and the class members owned and had an unqualified and immediate right to the possession of the paper and ink or toner used to print the faxes.

38. By sending the unsolicited faxes, defendants appropriated to their own use the paper and ink or toner used to print the faxes and used them in such manner as to make them unusable. Such appropriation was wrongful and without authorization.

39. Defendants knew or should have known that such appropriation of the paper and ink or toner was wrongful and without authorization.

40. Plaintiff and the class members were deprived of the paper and ink or toner, which could no longer be used for any other purpose. Plaintiff and each class member thereby suffered damages as a result of receipt of the unsolicited faxes.

41. Defendants should be enjoined from committing similar violations in the future.

### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

42. Pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 23(a) and (b)(3), plaintiff brings this claim on behalf of a class, consisting of (a) all persons with Illinois fax numbers (b) who, on or after a date five years prior to the filing of this action, or such shorter period during which faxes were sent by or on behalf of defendant Pacific Union Financial, LLC, and on or before a date 20 days following the filing of this action, (c) were sent faxes by or on behalf of defendant Pacific Union Financial, LLC, promoting its goods or services for sale (d) which do not contain the “opt out notice” described in 47 U.S.C. §227..

43. The class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impractical. Plaintiff alleges on information and belief that there are more than 40 members of the class.

44. There are questions of law and fact common to the class that predominate over any questions affecting only individual class members. The predominant common questions include:

- a. Whether defendants engaged in a pattern of sending unsolicited fax advertisements;
- b. Whether defendants thereby violated the TCPA;
- c. Whether defendants thereby committed the tort of conversion;
- d. Whether defendants thereby engaged in unfair acts and practices, in violation of the ICFA.

e. Whether defendants thereby converted the property of plaintiff.

45. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class.

Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in handling class actions and claims involving unlawful business practices. Neither plaintiff nor plaintiff's counsel have any interests which might cause them not to vigorously pursue this action.

46. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the class members. All are based on the same factual and legal theories.

47. A class action is the superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. The interest of class members in individually controlling the prosecution of separate claims against defendants is small because it is not economically feasible to bring individual actions.

48. Management of this class action is likely to present significantly fewer difficulties than those presented in many class actions, e.g. for securities fraud.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff requests that the Court enter judgment in favor of plaintiff and the class and against defendants for:

- a. Appropriate damages;
- b. An injunction against the further transmission of unsolicited fax advertising;
- c. Costs of suit;
- d. Such other or further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

s/ Daniel A. Edelman  
Daniel A. Edelman

Daniel A. Edelman  
Michelle R. Teggelaar  
Julie Clark  
EDELMAN, COMBS, LATTURNER & GOODWIN, LLC  
120 S. LaSalle Street, 18th floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
(312) 739-4200  
(312) 419-0379 (FAX)



**NOTICE OF LIEN AND ASSIGNMENT**

Please be advised that we claim a lien upon any recovery herein for 1/3 or such amount as a court awards. All rights relating to attorney's fees have been assigned to counsel.

s/ Daniel A. Edelman  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Daniel A. Edelman, hereby certify that on February 28, 2012, I caused to be filed the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF System. I further certify that on this date, or as soon thereafter as service may be effectuated, I will cause to be served a true and accurate copy of the foregoing document via hand delivery by process server upon the following party:

Pacific Union Financial, LLC  
c/o Incomp. Services, Inc.  
901 S 2nd Street, Ste. 201  
Springfield, IL 62704

s/Daniel A. Edelman  
Daniel A. Edelman

Daniel A. Edelman  
Cathleen M. Combs  
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